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To: SPARRISH--VUS0212A Steven Parrish

Date and time

J Helmut
06/18/92 14:41:57

From: Matthew Winokur
Subject: Mitch Ritter program

As agreed, this morning Denise, Rupp and I met with Mitch.

What Mitch is doing is interesting but is totally beyond the mandate for S&T. He should be instructed to hand over his portfolio to me. That's the long and short of it.

What he's been doing - allegedly with your acknowledgement and support - is to work with the tobacco grower associations in Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. The objective is to promote the economic importance of tobacco growing in those countries as a lever to slow down BOTH the a) introduction of legislation in developing countries (esp. the ones dependant on tob growing) and b) in turn to hamstringing the ability of the WHO to promote tobacco policies in the EC.

The first objective makes sense. The second objective is absurd. The EC has plenty of home grown antis who are well beyond being influenced by WHO one way or another.

As for the first objective, it is already being done by coalition that I'm involved with via BAT and Rothmans. I think Mitch has shown some initiative and does have the right idea. But he should drop it now that I'm briefed. It's certainly well beyond the purview of the new, narrowly defined role of S&T. Dealing with grower organizations to influence the FAO and thereby the WHO is PMI's job - and we're doing it - not his. Rupp may be able to help but it will be my expense and under my direction.

Let's discuss this in more detail when you return.

P.S. Denise shares this view as well.

cc: DKEANE --VUS0212A Denise Keane

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